

Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

March 16, 2016

THIS WEEK:

**The First Five Iowa Governors Whose Terms
Began in the 20th Century**

BACKGROUND:

This is a series examining the public service history of Iowa's governors.

First Five Governors Whose Terms Began in the 20th Century

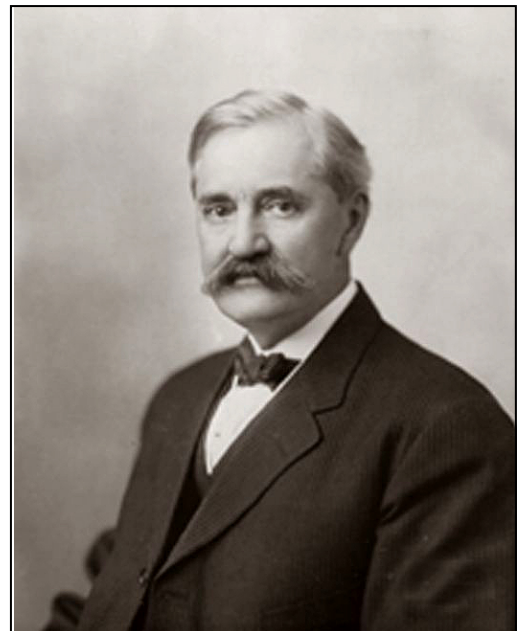
Albert Cummins

Albert Cummins, Iowa's 18th governor, was the first governor to serve three terms.

Governor Cummins served from 1902 to 1908. During his third term, he resigned to become United States Senator.

Governor Cummins served in the Iowa House of Representatives for one term, 1888 to 1890.

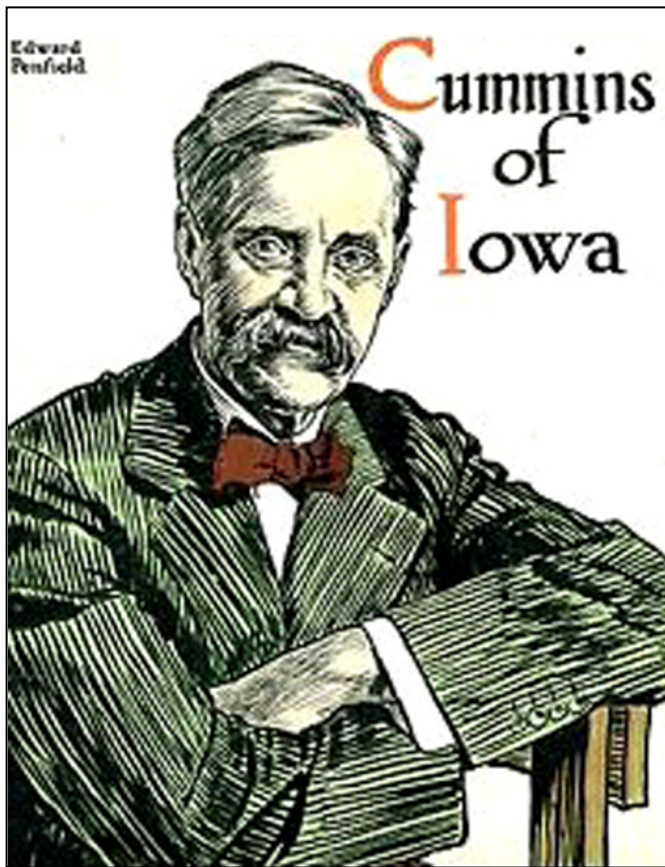
He was born in Pennsylvania in 1850 and died in 1926. He is buried in Des Moines, Iowa.



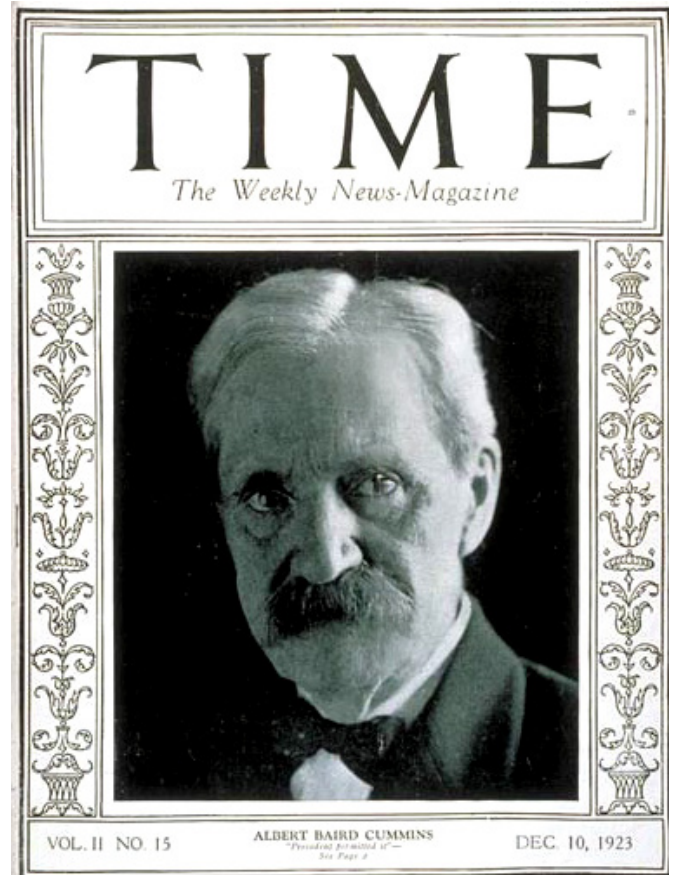
**Albert Cummins
1850-1926**

In 1904, the eleventh amendment to the Iowa Constitution changed years for gubernatorial elections during Albert Cummins' administration. The amendment took effect in 1906. Governors from then on were elected in even-numbered years and inaugurated in odd-numbered years.

U.S. Senator Albert Cummins



Albert Cummins on the cover of *Collier's* magazine 1915



Albert Cummins on the cover of *Time* magazine 1923

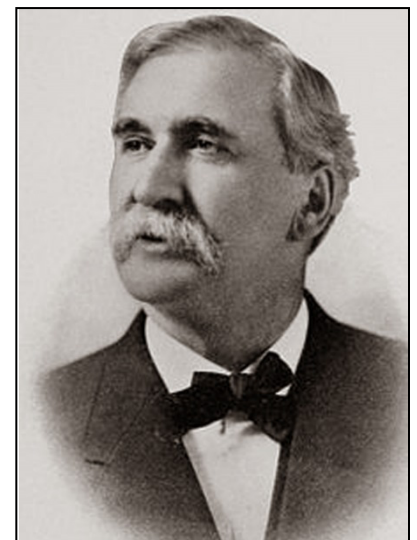
Warren Garst

Warren Garst served as Iowa's 19th governor from 1908 to 1909. Governor Garst had been elected Lieutenant Governor in 1906.

Governor Garst served out Governor Cummins' term. He was Iowa's governor for less than two months.

He served in the Iowa Senate from 1894 until sworn in as Lieutenant Governor in 1907.

Governor Garst was born in Ohio in 1850 and died in 1924. He is buried in Des Moines, Iowa.



**Warren Garst
1850–1924**

Beryl Carroll

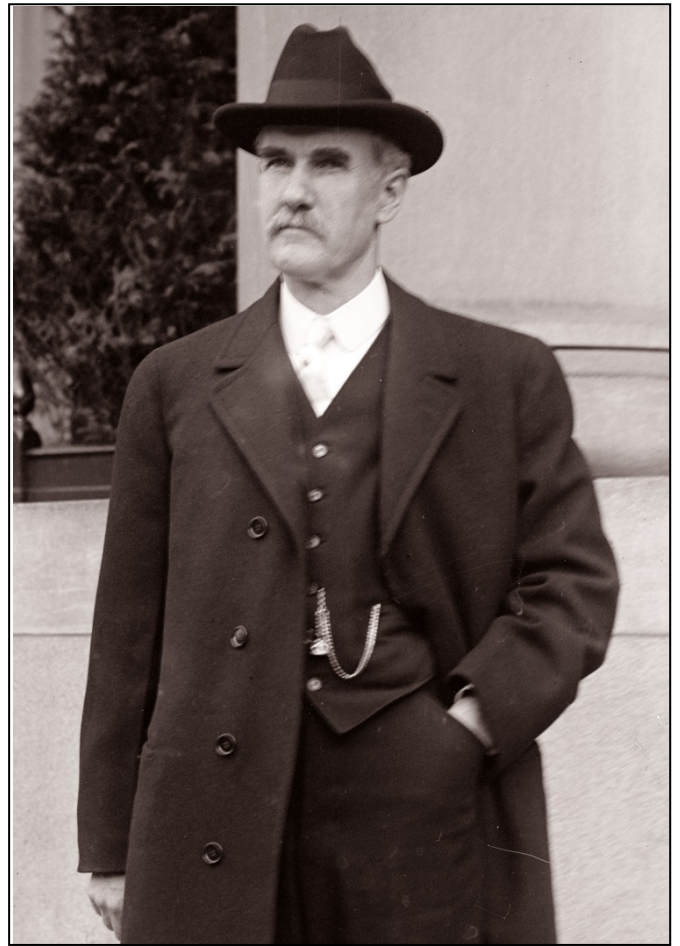
Beryl Carroll served two terms as Iowa's 20th governor from 1909 to 1913. He was the first governor elected who was born in Iowa.



**Beryl Carroll
1860–1939**

Governor Carroll served one term in the Iowa Senate from 1896 to 1900. Governor Carroll also served as State Auditor from 1903 to 1909.

He was born in Davis County, Iowa, in 1860, and died in 1939. He is buried in Bloomfield, Iowa.



George Clarke

George Clarke was Iowa's 21st governor serving two terms from 1913 to 1917. He served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1900 to 1907. He was chosen Speaker of the House during his last two terms. Governor Clarke was elected Lieutenant Governor, presiding over the Senate from 1909 to 1913.

He was born in Shelby County, Indiana, in 1852, and died in 1936. He is buried in Adel, Iowa.



**George Clarke
1852–1936**

William Harding

William Harding served two terms as Iowa's 22nd governor from 1917 to 1921. Governor Harding is the only governor to have impeachment proceedings initiated against him, but only a censure motion was approved. Harding issued a pardon to Ernest Rathbun and was later accused of taking a bribe in exchange for that pardon.

Governor Harding served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1907 to 1913. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1912, serving from 1913 to 1917.

Governor Harding was born on a farm near Sibley, Iowa, in 1877, and died in 1934. He is buried in Sioux City, Iowa.



William Harding
1877–1934

To read the Legislative biographies of these Governors on the Iowa General Assembly website, click on each link below:

Albert Cummins <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=3235>

Warren Garst <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=3468>

Beryl Carroll <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=3696>

George Clarke <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=3453>

William Harding <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?qa=22&personID=4112>